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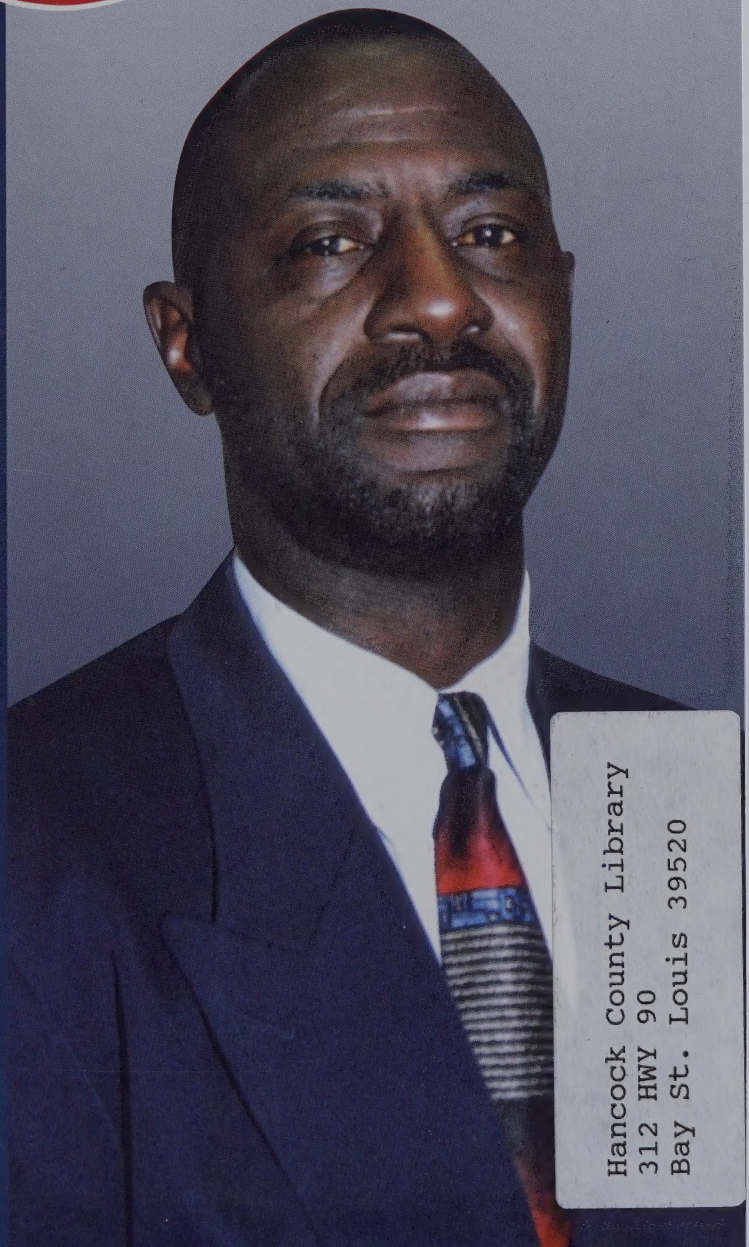

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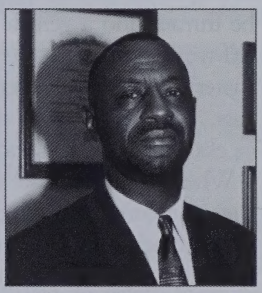

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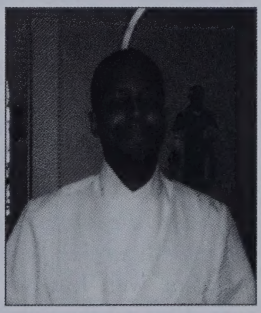

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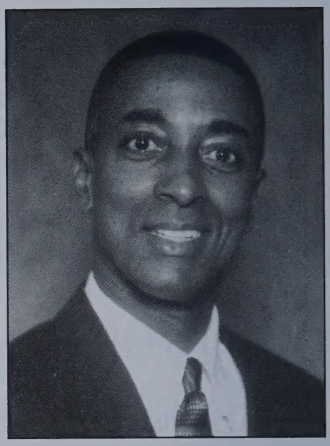

Maurice Singleton

I have heard a lot lately about the "self-hate" that supposedly permeates throughout the African American community. According to psychologists, it shows itself through jealousy, hate or a strong dislike for individuals perceived to be threats, and a general feeling of low self-worth which is often masked with material things, such as clothing, fine cars, extravagant hair styles, excessive alcohol consumption, etc.

Whenever the debate arises, it seems that someone brings up the issue of "enslavement" and the impact of this institution. The issue of "mental enslavement" usually also arises with someone making the point that many of us have never released the shackles from our minds.

Fear appears to be a motivator for the things we do not want to deal with. In a recent interview, Chris Childs, one of the New York Knicks guards, explained that it was fear of succeeding that led to his problem with alcohol before he came to grips with his fears and began to accept his talent and potential. Today, he is a member of the NBA Eastern Conference Championship team vying for an NBA Championship.

Fear appears to be the culprit that keeps many of us from reaching our potential in careers as well as in relationships. Fear is convenient because to fear, one does not have to do anything, but fear. To initiate fear may be easy, but fear comes with a price. When our lives are overcome with fear, we become stagnant. Our relationships become stagnant. Fear can be crippling and lead to a state of emotional impotence.

I will be the first to admit that fear was an initial thought when I left a secure job to start a business. But I did not let that fear cripple me or interfere with the job I had to do in order to make my business succeed. In other words, from my experience, I have learned that a certain amount of fear is not harmful, but to become overcome by fear is disastrous.

Contenders for athletic championships often talk about fear-like symptoms before the championship event begins. But they do not let that fear overcome their desires to compete. Once the event begins, the focus replaces the fear - for most of them, anyway.

The best way to deal with fear is to confront fear. Recognize it, and deal with it accordingly whenever it shows itself. Learning to become more accepting of one's self is a good way to start overcoming fear. Jazz singer George Benson sang, "Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all." Or as Gerald G. Jampolsky, M.D., the author of the book featured in the Book Review this month puts it: *Love Is Letting Go of Fear.*

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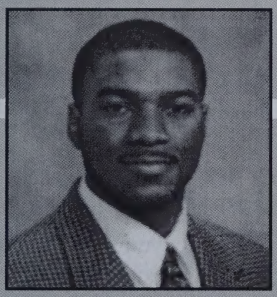
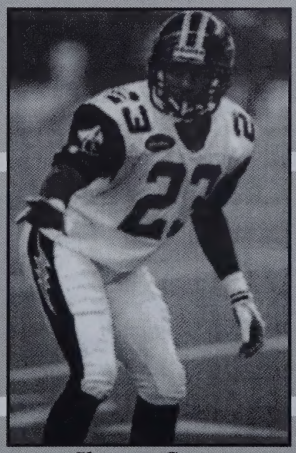


Shannon Garrett
Loan Officer
The People's Bank

Six months out of the year Shannon Garrett is a loan officer at our Gulfport Branch. The other six months he is a defensive back for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

At the Peoples Bank, we have been putting people first for 100 years. In Shannon's case that means holding his job for him while he plays football in Canada each year.

The next time you're in our Gulfport Branch, be sure to say hi to Shannon and wish him luck in the upcoming season!



Shannon Garrett
Defensive Back
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Publisher
Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

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Mississippi Star

Newsstand price:
$2.00
Annual subscription rate:
$16.00

For subscriptions, back issues and advertising inquiries please contact:

Mississippi Star
Post Office Box 2651
Bay St. Louis, MS 39521
228-463-1200

Mississippi Star is a monthly magazine published by Star Magazine, Inc.

Letters

To the Editor:

What a wonderful article about Breast Cancer. This article hits home. It is well written and easily understood. This article made me more aware of breast cancer and the choices that have to be made. The stats are alarming.

Iris R. Davis, R.N.
New Orleans, LA

To the Editor:

Thank you for addressing Breast Cancer in your May 1999 issue. It is a topic that needs more open and honest discussion so that women will become more aware of their risks and take a more proactive stance in their own health care. We often minimize our own risk out of ignorance and fear. Ms. Singleton's willingness to share her personal story brings home the breast cancer risk we, as women, face. I would like to thank Ms. Singleton for sharing her story; we all benefit by it.

Sincerely,
Jennylynn Pickett R.N.
Arlington, VA

Dear Editor,

Breast Cancer: Let's Talk More About It.

I would like to thank you for such a wonderful and helpful article. I found most interesting how Sharon opened her home and invited you in for a close friend type chat. I found the article most informative. It made me feel that Breast Cancer is not the end of the world, and there is a lot of help out there.

I have met many women with breast

cancer but no one has ever explained to me where it was, how it felt and what motivated them to make the treatment choices they made. This article can benefit many people. I plan to share it with my friends and family, so they can have a better understanding of breast cancer.

Thank you.
Barbara Mahoney
New Orleans, LA

This is to express my feelings with the article, Breast Cancer: Let's Talk More About It. It was nice to hear from a professional person about how she dealt with the diagnosis of breast cancer. It made me think about members of my family and a close friend I lost to this awful disease. I was impressed with the way Mrs. Singleton handled the whole situation. This article should be an inspiration to all women dealing with this terrible disease.

Thank You,
Curtis Parker
New Orleans, LA

Dear Editor:

I am taking this opportunity to express my heartfelt Thank You for publishing a very timely and informative article by Sharon Singleton, R.N., M.N. on the topic of breast cancer.

As a woman of color and a R.N., myself, I can't tell you enough how much this information is needed to be provided to our community. Information and education are the key tools that must be placed at everyone's availability. The article was warm and very personable. I will keep Sharon and her family in my prayers.

Keep up the good work.

Linda G. Brown, R.N., M.S.
New Orleans, LA

Letters to the Publisher

should be 100 words or less.

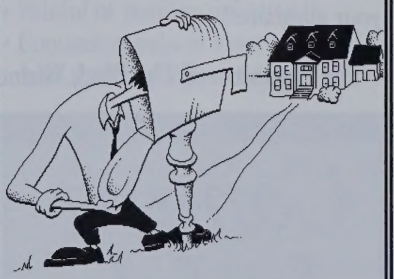
Star Calendar: Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact. Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month.

Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.

Mail submissions to

Mississippi Star, P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

Mississippi Star reserves the right to refuse or decline to publish any submission.



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LETTERS *Continued...*

To the Gulf Coast Community:

Many people ask us why? The reason is not as some may think. It's not to become rich, nor is it to stomp out other brothers and sisters trying to maintain, nor is it to boast and gloat about our accomplishments. The reason why is simple!

We are proud to produce a vehicle of education for our people. We accomplish this by offering discussions, focusing on topics of great concern to African Americans, and by working and networking together to come closer to finding solutions. The all African American cast of participants (both national and local speakers, authors and educators) share their life and professional experiences with us in an effort to impart invaluable information that we, as a people, might not otherwise have access to. Whether Dispelling the Myths about Aids/HIV, Lupus and Hypertension, or providing information on Becoming Financially Independent, or instructing couples on their personal Guide to Staying Married, or teaching How to Overcome Abusiveness through Spirituality, our mission is the same. We would be remiss if we did not begin to share this vehicle that began and is so revered in Chicago with other African Americans throughout the country. We must begin to support and assist our fellow brothers, sisters and children and make our own dreams possible.

The Black Women's Expo - In the South is truly "Making A Difference" in the lives of our people within the African American community. Whether you exhibit as a small vendor make a corporate contribution, attend with your family and friends or simply keep us in your thoughts and prayers, we sincerely thank you for your allegiance!

- The Producers of The Black Women's Expo In the South - *Making A Difference*

Coming In July

MISSISSIPPI *Star*

- Book Review: *The Psychology of Winning*
- NAACP Leaders Discuss Issues in Their Communities

& Much More

Early detection

and treatment can help save your life.

An estimated 165,000 new cases of PROSTATE CANCER have occurred among men in the U.S. this year alone. Today, one out of ten men will develop prostate cancer by age 85.

Who is at risk?

Incidence increases with age. Over 80% of all prostate cancers are diagnosed in men over age 65. Rates are 40% higher for black men than white men.

What do I look for?

Prostate cancer warnings include:

- Weak or interrupted urine flow
- Inability to urinate
- Difficulty starting or stopping the urine flow
- The need to urinate frequently, especially at night
- Blood in the urine
- Painful or burning urination
- Continuing pain in lower back, pelvis or upper thighs

What should I do?

Early detection is extremely critical. After 40, a man should have a digital rectal examination with his regular annual physical checkup and an annual prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test at 50 and older. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms described here, contact your physician immediately.

For more information or a physician referral call:

865-DOCS (3627)

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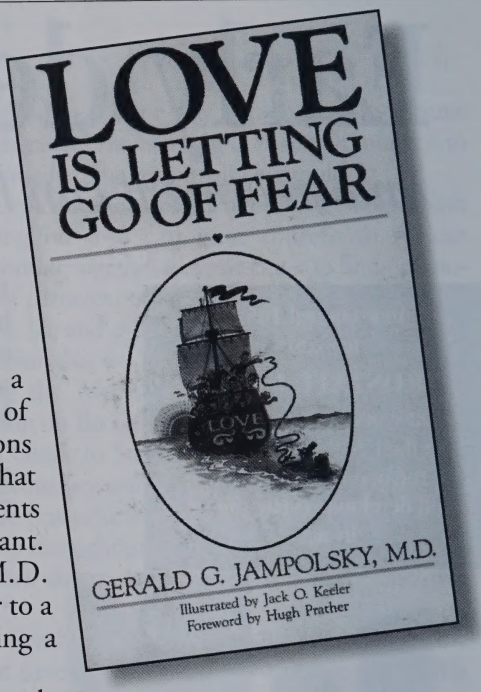
BOOK REVIEW

LOVE is Letting Go of Fear



Gerald G. Jampolsky, M.D., Author

Love Is Letting Go Of Fear is a self-help book that offers peace of mind through a series of lessons that attest, affirm and teach that some of the most simple elements of life are the most important. Gerald G. Jampolsky, M.D. attempts to transform his reader to a state of inner peace by following a process of twelve lessons.

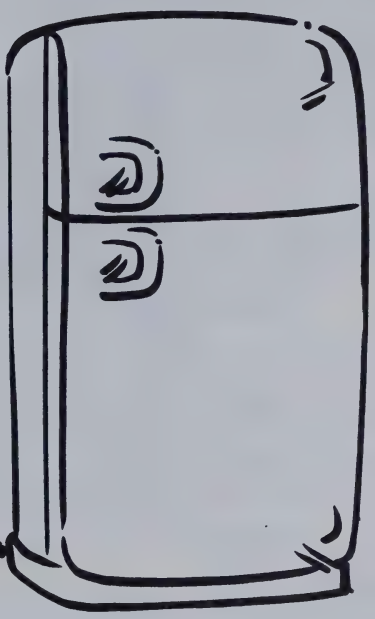
In Part I, Jampolsky prepares the readers for Personal Transformation; in Part II, he teaches the reader the ingredients of Personal Transformation; and in Part III, he involves the reader in the twelve-lesson transformation journey.

All that I Give I Give to Myself, Forgiveness is the Key to Happiness, I Am Determined to See Things Differently, I Could See Peace Instead of This, I Am Not the Victim of the World I See, The Past Is Over-It Can Touch Me Not are only some of the lessons Jampolsky expounds upon in this wonderfully thought out project that he researched, carefully organized and assembled for the purpose of making us better beings.

The following is a sample of Jampolsky's lessons. It is taken from Lesson 1:

All that I Give is Given to Myself

To Give is to Receive is the law of Love. Under this law, when we give our Love away to others we gain, and what we give we simultaneously receive. The law of Love is based on abundance; we are completely filled with Love all the time, and our supply is always full and running over. When we give our Love unconditionally to others with no expectations of return, the Love within us extends and joins. So by giving our Love away we increase the Love within us and everyone gains.



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Deacon Darren Answers A Higher Calling

by Torrie M. Jakes

Recently a friend answered not only my prayers, but God's Calling. As a Catholic, I have always been asked to pray for increased vocations. Particularly among minority groups, the number of men becoming priests, deacons, and brothers had declined. In response to my prayers and the prayers of others, there has been a recent tide of African-American men answering the call to religious life. Included in this growing number of priests is Mississippi native (Bay St. Louis), Darren S. Hazeur.

Deacon Darren S. Hazeur.

Before a host of family, friends, and well-wishers, Brother Darren and his fellow seminarian, Brother Sidney O. Speals, III (Baltimore, MD) made their Perpetual Promises. This May 26th service was said by Rev. Robert M. Kearns, SSV (Superior General). During the mass, the Celebrant examined the candidates on their intention to undertake the office of Deacon. Then he offered Darren and Sidney the sign of Peace and prayed over them, before calling the candidates to make their promises. Heeding this call, the two young men promised to live a life of Obedience to the bishops and respect to their ecclesiastical superiority. Then they promised a lifelong commitment of Chastity for the kingdom and in lifelong service to God and his people. Finally, they committed to a sacrificial life of Poverty.

On Saturday, May 29, 1999 at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia, the Ordination of the Diaconate of Josephites was held. The church was filled with family and friends, as well as a great number of men already committed to religious life, including Brother Darren's sponsor, Fr. Francis Theriault, S.V.D., of Bay St. Louis. Just as the priest with them once did, Bros. Darren and Sidney reaffirmed their promises of obedience, chastity, and poverty as well as an additional promise to become a Deacon with the Josephites. Our celebrant was the very dynamic Most Rev. John H. Ricard, S.J.,D.D., Ph.D., Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee. He delivered an inspiring homily encouraging the candidates on their journey. Following the homily, Bros. Darren and Sidney were called before Fr. Ricard and the congregation to pray.

During the Invitation to Prayer, the two candidates laid prostate while the church prayed with them. Next Fr.

Ricard prayed the Litany of Saints, requesting their help to empower the candidates. Then the Celebrant performed the Laying of Hands and the Prayer of Consecration. During these sacraments, the bishop laid his hands on the heads of the candidates who knelt before him while he prayed in silence.

After rising, Bros. Darren and Sidney were invested each with a Stole and a Dalmatic (the long, loose robe worn by Deacons during Mass). The newly ordained deacons stood and were vested by their sponsors with the attire proper to deacons. Fr. Theriault, Deacon Darren's sponsor, placed the stole over Darren's left shoulder and gave him the Dalmatic. Then the bishop placed the Book of Gospels in the hands of each deacon symbolizing their new rite to preach the gospel. Finally as a concluding rite, the deacons present and Fr. Ricard bestowed the Kiss of Peace upon the newly ordained deacons.

At the conclusion of this beautiful and moving ceremony, the congregation gathered outside to congratulate the newly ordained. While the well-wishers were overjoyed, the new deacons appeared uplifted with their new titles and responsibilities. I could not imagine being happier than Darren seemed at that moment. I, like all the others, wished Darren and Sidney well on their journeys. Additionally, I am especially grateful to them answering the prayers of so many who have prayed for so long for increased vocations. Finally, I congratulate them for having the courage to answer the Lord's very special call.

Torrie M. Jakes is an attorney practicing in the Washington, DC area.

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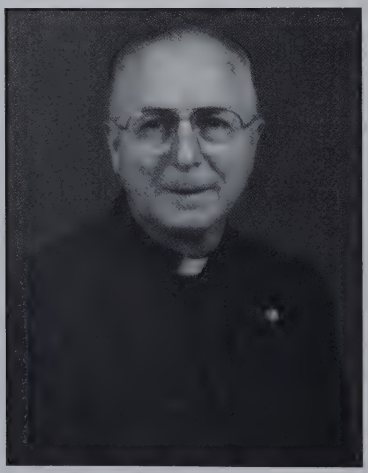
ARMY SSG JOHN WILLIAMS

Army SSG John Williams is stationed in the Republic of Korea, serving as a Supply Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge. In a letter to his parents, Major Michael A. Fleetwood writes about SSG Williams: "He is without a doubt the finest Non commissioned Officer in my entire company of 224 soldiers. He ranks among the top 1% of all soldiers, officers and NCO, that I have observed in over twelve years of commissioned officer service. I know that no matter what the task or how many have failed before, that if I simply mention the need, SSG Williams will accomplish the mission thoroughly and faster than anyone else will."

SSG Williams is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Williams of Bay St. Louis.

REV. BARTHOLOMEW S. ENDSLOW, S.S. J.



Rev. Bartholomew S. Endslow, S.S.J., pastor of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Pass Christian celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest in a special service on Sunday, June 6. Distinguished clergy who participated in the celebration mass were Superior General Rev. Robert M. Kearns, S.S.J. and Bishop Joseph L. Howze who presented the homily.

Rev. Endslow is a native of Peabody, Massachusetts. He began his studies for the priesthood in 1939 at Epiphany College in New York, and completed his final years of seminary training at St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, D.C. He was ordained on June 7, 1949.

The anniversary committee included Our Mother of Mercy members Laverne Ausmer, Regina Broch, Jerry Brown, Yvonne Ellis, Olivia Hunter, Warren LeRuth, Betty Piernas and Althea Raboteau.

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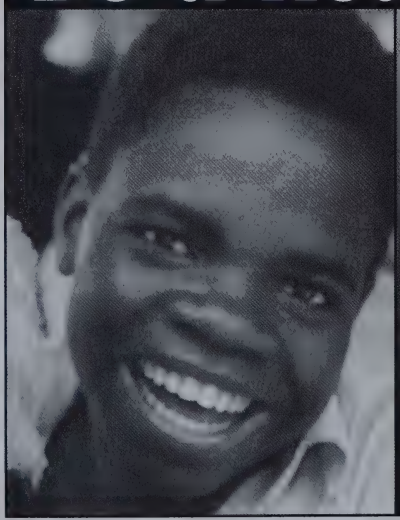


Don't Get Wasted On Drugs.

William W. Martin Leads in His Father's Footsteps

by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

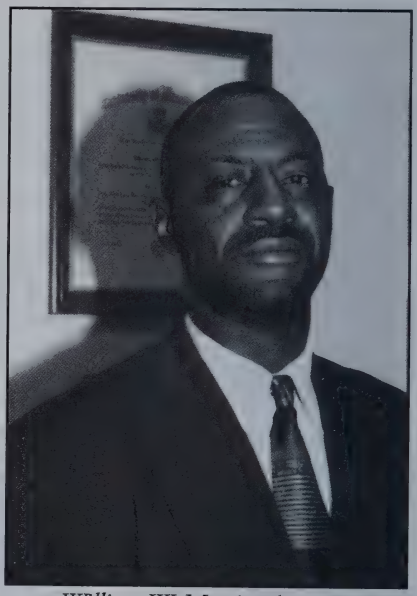
William Martin was a good student growing up in Cleveland, Mississippi. Education was important to his family. His two sisters – two and three years older than he - were straight-A students. They set the standard for academic excellence in the Martin household. His parents were members of the PTA, usually president or vice president. They expected their children to do well; and they wanted to make sure that all children in their Northwest Mississippi Delta community had access to a quality education.

William thrived in the environment of expectation. He studied hard and enjoyed academic competition.

His two sisters went on to college as expected. While they were in college, his mother earned her General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and then went on to nursing school, earning her licensed practical nurse's license. His mother's accomplishment made quite an impact on him.

"My mother went to school and worked at the same time," Martin explained. "Education was always a part of our lives. My mother earned her GED and LPN while my sisters were in college."

While his mother worked and studied, his father worked his regular job as well as side jobs to help the girls get through college. His father was a leader in Cleveland, Mississippi, when times were very different than they are now. William can remember his father going around the community encouraging people to register to vote.

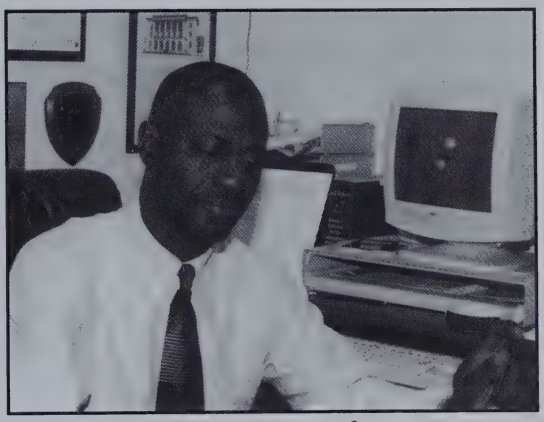


William W. Martin, Attorney and Harrison County's District 4 Supervisor

"Getting involved in the political process was also very important to my father," said Martin. "I can remember him trying to start a union. He got into a lot of trouble behind it. He was always trying to help people."

Another event, earlier in life, also made quite an impression on young William. A classmate and a close friend,

who had competed with Martin at academics since the two started school had reached physical maturity. At the age of eleven or twelve, the young man from a family of sharecroppers was forced to quit school to go to work for the landowner.



Martin preparing for an upcoming criminal trial

"That hurt me deeply," explained Martin. "Here is a young man – very smart – had to quit school to go to work. He and I were always very competitive. We both wanted to be the best. He was denied the right to obtain that knowledge.

"That had an effect on me," Martin recalled. "That was one of the factors that made me determined that I wanted to be an attorney. Legally, they may not have had the right to do that, but at that time rights weren't being enforced."

Inspired and motivated by solid examples and the disappointment of seeing his talented friend and rival being deprived of an education, Martin graduated from Cleveland's East Side High School in 1974. He went on to Tougaloo College, near Jackson, accepting a scholarship over several other offers based on academic record. He graduated from Tougaloo College in 1978 and then enrolled in law school at Ole Miss, graduating in May 1981.

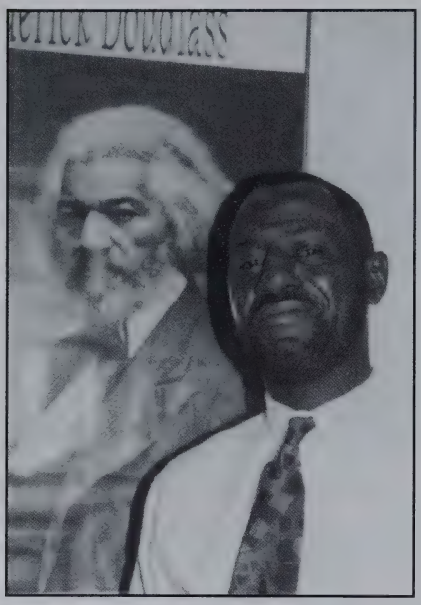
In his eighteen-year law career, Martin has worked as a prosecutor and as a defense attorney. While prosecuting attorneys are sometimes recognized for their zealousness at seeking guilty verdicts, Martin's focus has been very similar to the focus of his father: "helping people."

"The law profession is one of those areas that can change things for the masses," explained Martin. "The Supreme Court rulings shape the direction that this country is going to go. It always has."

"He has always tried to help as many people as possible, over and above the call of duty," said Warren L. Conway, Martin's law partner of three years. Conway recalled a particular incident in which Martin stood up to represent a young man in court who appeared to be getting a 'raw deal.'

"He stood up without being asked to represent this guy," explained Conway. "It was the right thing to do, and he did it for the right reasons. He does the right thing on a consistent basis."

Martin's father always tried to improve conditions for those who felt powerless, for those who he felt were getting raw deals on the job. His father has since passed away, however his legacy lives. As the saying goes, *The apple*



Martin stands in front of the image of one of his role models, Frederick Douglass.

doesn't fall far from the tree. Martin is living his father's legacy. His focus remains to help as many people as he can.

Whether it was NAACP Gulfport Branch president, Harrison County District Four Supervisor, or defense attorney, Martin has always sought to "help people."

Martin resigned his position as president of the Gulfport Branch of the NAACP because he perceived the role as a "possible conflict" to his role as a county supervisor, a position he was appointed to fill when former supervisor Robin Alfred Midcalf, Esq., was elected to County Court Judge.

Martin is currently campaigning to be elected to the District Four supervisor seat when his appointed term expires, but he does not sound like a politician. He does not make a lot of promises. He talks about where Harrison County is in terms of its growth and what his expectations are, but he does not deliver rhetoric. He talks about the problems that rapid growth has brought, but he does not point a finger. He talks about solutions.

"My mission at this time is to see that the citizens in District Four receive the same benefits and the same representation as all other citizens of this county and to further the county as a whole," Martin explained. "The county is growing by leaps and bounds. I think it is important that we not get so caught up in one driving factor that is causing an economic boom, but to make sure that we grow in a way that will be beneficial to everybody. I've never believed in putting our eggs in one basket. We need to be trying to bring car manufacturers and other industry here."

Martin is a man of vision and energy. He has a lot going on around him with his law practice, his responsibilities as county supervisor and the campaign, but he does not appear to be overburdened. And he certainly does not appear to be weary.

"When it comes to his work ethic, you couldn't ask for a better partner," explained Conway. "He'll work as early as need be and stay as late as needed. He's the right man at the right time."

William and Nettie Martin have a ten-year-old daughter, Wendy, who is a straight-A student at St. John's in Gulfport. William's two children from his previous marriage, Tyler and Kegi live in Jackson.

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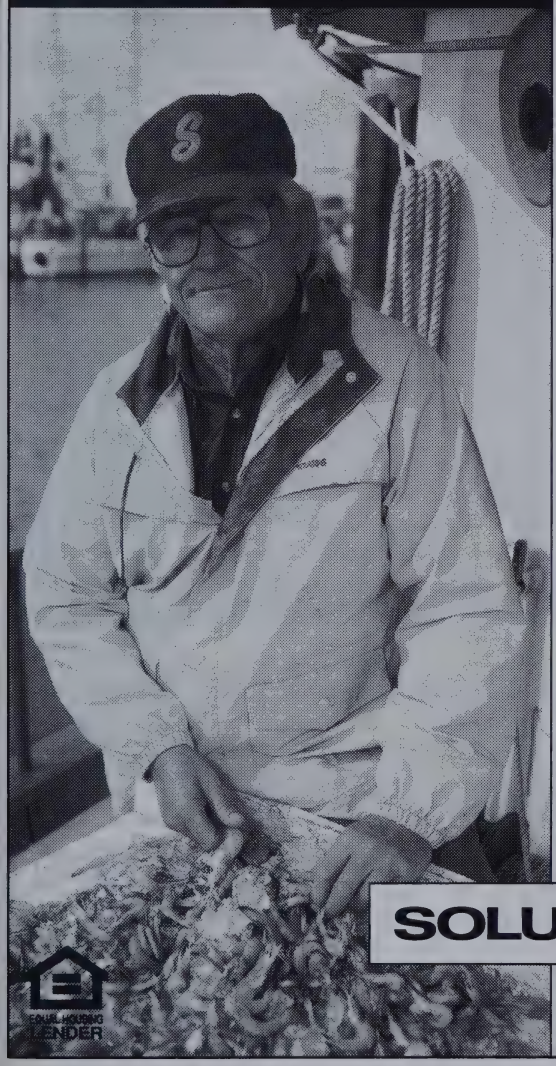

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Larry Davis Is *The Man* at Qwest Records

by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

Larry Davis, Vice President and General Manager of Qwest Records and the company's founder Quincy Jones.

"This is where I am supposed to be!" was what Larry Davis thought to himself when he arrived in Los Angeles for the first time back in 1979. This past April, twenty years later, Davis returned to Los Angeles as Vice President and General Manager of *Qwest Records*, the company founded by the renowned Quincy Jones.

"It was an interesting road getting to this point," Davis explained with the ease and confidence of a marathon runner who knows that he has conditioned and prepared himself for the grueling work ahead of him. "I am thankful to the Lord above, to Quincy and to Mom.

Davis' "Mom" is Ethel Shaw, the owner of Fashion Touch Boutique and Beauty Salon in Gulfport. Davis grew up in Gulfport, leaving in 1975 after graduating from Gulfport East

High School.

"My mom raised us for a while as a single parent. I watched her work. I watched her pray. I heard relatives tell her that if she didn't find a father for us that we'd be nothing but trouble," Davis recalled. "I am also thankful to Mr. Nathaniel Peavy. He was just like a father to us. He would take us to Oberlies and buy us records. He would expose us to everything from James Brown to Tom Jones and Elvis. A lot of my musical taste I picked up from him."

Having an ear for a broad variety of music is an essential ingredient for a music industry executive in today's rapidly changing music market. As vice president and general manager of Qwest Records, Davis is responsible for the development, promotion and sales of a catalog of varied artists that include Quincy Jones, Tevin Campbell, Keith Washington, Hiroshima, Milt Jackson and an exciting new artist who goes by the name of Catero.

Davis described his rise to the executive level in the music industry as an "interesting road." It also appears to be methodically planned and executed from preparation in high school and college to the career decisions he made along the way.

While still in high school, Davis paid close attention to South Mississippi radio personality, Rip Daniels, who at the time hosted a show on WTAM Radio Station. Daniels and Chilli Mack, another radio personality impressed Davis with their on-air style and confidence.

Davis moved to Atlanta in 1975 to attend Morehouse College and immediately got involved in college radio. An internship at Anheiser Bush during the summer after his junior year of college provided him with a sample of the corporate culture, just enough to make him aware that he had the people skills to succeed in the corporate environment.

In 1979, after graduating from Morehouse and a short stint on the Mississippi Coast, Davis was hired by Capitol Records in an entry-level position. After a year he moved into a sales and marketing position.

He later moved over to Epic Records as a sales representative and after one year was promoted to his first national position as National Promotions Manager. His first record assignment was Michael Jackson's *BAD*.

Davis began working with Qwest Records in January of 1997. According to Davis, "Quincy was looking to take his company in a different direction." Davis had written the marketing plan for Quincy's *From Q With Love*, so Quincy had become aware of Davis' work.

Davis went down to the Bahamas for Quincy's appearance on the Oprah Winfrey Show. While there, Quincy asked Davis what he thought needed to be done to turn the company around. Davis shared his thoughts candidly with Quincy.

Davis accepted the offer to run Quincy's *Qwest Records* and to return to the place where he belongs.

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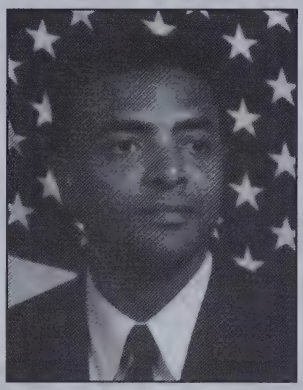
WE ARE FAMILY

by Kevin LaVigne Antoine, JD



Your world changes with the death of a parent, in my case the passing of my dad. Dad use to tell me that nothing in the whole world had hurt him so much as when his father died. I now know just how he felt. I keep in touch with my siblings more frequently. Not that I did not before, but the conversation has changed from what ladders we are currently climbing to spending more time together. In a family with four sons and three daughters, scattered in places like Seattle, Cleveland, Atlanta, DC, Jackson and Pass Christian, "getting together" normally was a challenge. But since my dad's death this past April getting together takes on a new perspective. As a reverend said at the funeral, "death is an appointment we all shall keep." That being the case, life itself is an urgent endeavor.

Things you believe in life to be true, just and right must be attended to immediately. My dad was this way. Whether someone liked him or not did not seem to bother him. He was however consistent in what he believed. If he did not like something, he told you in the most direct way. No matter who or what you were. For example, it seems like yesterday when I was in high school stacking the boxes of liquor in my dad's store, and a fellow board of directors member for Gulf Coast Community College, of which dad was the first African American appointed, entered.

The other board member was in the mood to continue discussing an item from their meeting the previous night. Dad wasn't. He told the fellow member, "You should have brought that up last night," waving his finger at the fellow board member (a habit of my dad's when he was about to make a point). "Now I have a business to run, so I'll see you later." My mouth froze open.

"You catching flies with your mouth open like that or stacking boxes?" he said to me with one eyebrow raised. "Stacking boxes, sir." We always answered him with Sir!

But, the greatest reference for understanding the urgency of life is found in "The Gospel of Mark." The word *immediately* is mentioned more than 50 times. Jesus understood that what he was called before time to do, had to be accomplished in less than thirty-four years. He was bold and daring because he was acutely aware that time was not his ally. He had an appointment with crucifixion.

My parents imbedded the idea in us that in life, time is not your ally. For example, my brothers Greg and Bruce and sister Donna were the first to integrate Pass Christian High School in 1966, four years before the federal courts ordered all Southern school districts to desegregate. My parents simply told my

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brothers and sister that the following year we would be attending Pass High. There was no further discussion. Time was not an ally for segregation. Besides, having gone to majority white schools on air force bases in Japan and upstate New York, my older siblings did not comprehend, at that time, the boldness of my parents undertaking.

No doubt, the courage demonstrated by my parents and older siblings inspired me, in 1979, to become the first person of color elected vice president of a student body at a majority white university in the state of Mississippi, the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). In 1996, it inspired me to campaign for congress and become the first person of color and youngest candidate to win the democratic nomination in the majority white 4th Congressional District.

Greg went on to become a plastic surgeon; Bruce, a graduate of the Army's Non-Commission Officers School, and the first African American elected Mr. Pass High; Donna received a MPH from the University of California Berkeley Campus. My oldest brother Eddie Jr. has an MPA from Harvard and a degree in Spanish from Jackson State University. Cheryl was awarded a degree in criminal justice from USM; and my twin sister Kim was awarded a degree in social work from Mississippi State University. I was awarded a law degree from the College of William & Mary. Like my father, all four sons are military veterans (two Army, one Navy and one Air Force).

But, my parents also kept it real. The four sons had chores to be done before school. Feeding pigs, chickens and cows one half mile from the beaches in Pass Christian was a daily morning chore. That was in addition to the "special projects" my dad seem to always come up with.

In the summer of 1970, my brother Bruce was assigned the special project of digging a small drainage ditch so the water from our washing machine (which flowed right out the back of our house onto the ground) would drain off our property onto an adjacent vacant lot (this was before sewerage was connected). This may not sound like much, but dad, who was a retired First Sergeant, who still sported the crew cut, stood about four inches from Bruce the full three hours it took to complete the "project." In 95 degree temperature and humidity, dad was constantly in Bruce's ear. Every step Bruce would take, dad took it with him, with his hands on his hips, making unrelated comments like, "I'll be damn if you wear an afro in MY house. You're gonna get that sh— cut off your head." Kim, Cheryl and I were laughing in silence inside at the kitchen window.

Education was urgent, also. Not only in the classroom but also in the living room at 6pm, Monday through Thursday evenings (Friday nights, dad was at the "Inn Crowd") It was mandatory for the six children living at home to gather around the television and listen to Walter Cronkite and the CBS Evening News.

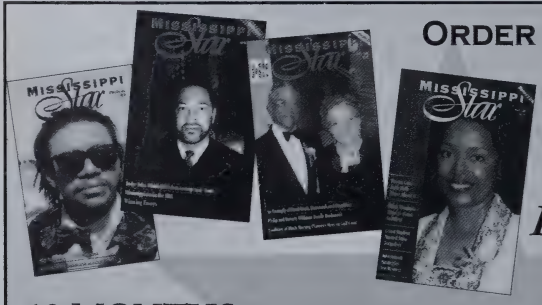
Not to be outdone, Mother kept us busy, too. Now a retired 6th grade science teacher, she taught all of us how to add, subtract, write our names, and tell the time before we entered the 1st grade. She is a continuing source of inspiration to me. Mother attended Tougaloo College for two years (1941-42) but had to drop out when she could no longer afford it. Thirty-five years later, she received her bachelors with honors from USM, a masters with honors, and her AAA from USM. She is definitely the one with the

brains in the family. I enjoyed watching her single-handedly chump out my three older brothers - all over six feet tall - with six little words: "I'm going to tell your daddy."

In retrospect, I am glad God gave me the kind of parents he did. We were taught responsibility and humility. Dad gave us pride, character, integrity and when warranted, a butt whipping. Mother showed us that loyalty and sacrifice have their own rewards. I love my mother dearly and still cry over dad's departure. I miss his understanding way of communicating. For example, during the funeral procession to Veterans Cemetery, the limousine driver hit a bump on the highway; I was waiting for daddy to blame me, "Kevin, if you hit another bump, I'm gonna get out this coffin and put my foot up your butt."

Well, I turned 40 last April, and with the death of my father, I am planning to return home and help mother stack old boxes. Maybe Bruce will come back and dig another needed ditch. These kind of hazardous jobs can cause injuries so we will need a doctor, Greg. Not to mention the diversity of people now moving to Mississippi, Eddie's multi-lingual talents would be handy for the family.

Kevin LaVigne Antoine, JD is a native of Pass Christian. In the 1996 national elections at age 36, Kevin, in his first attempt at elective office, became the youngest and first person of color to win a political party's nomination in the majority white 4th Congressional District of Mississippi. He's an attorney in Washington, DC. He plans to return to Mississippi this year. (Contact Kevin via his web page: http://home.talkcity.com/wallst/kevin_antoine)



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Members of Pass Christian's **We Care Committee** pause for a pose during one of their monthly benefit dinners at Labat's Bar and Grill on Davis Avenue. The group of ten men and two ladies formed in September of 1997 to help families "in need." Through January of this year, the group had raised nearly $14,000, helping thirteen families in the process.

"It's a wonderful feeling to walk into someone's house and tell them that we've raised a $1000 to help them through their tough time," said Otis Gates, Sr., the group's current president. "When you help someone when you know they are in need is a very rewarding feeling."

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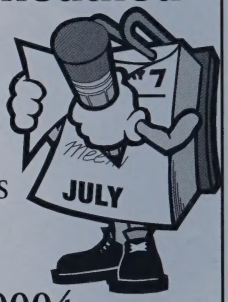

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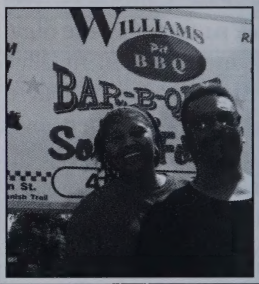

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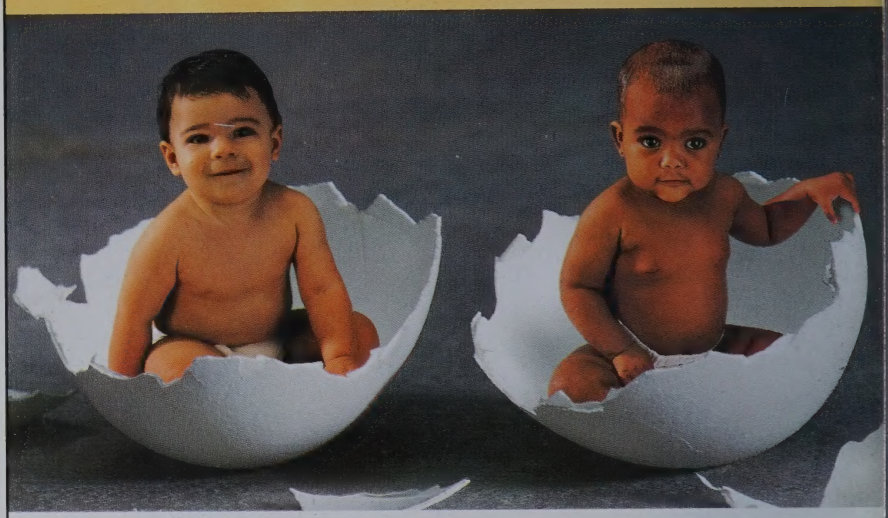

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